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POLE PRODUCTION IN 1952

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During 1952 the production of poles was about 6 percent greater than in 1951 according to the annual pole production survey[1] in Montana, Idaho north of the Salmon River, and Northeast Washington[2]. The 1952 total amounted to 494,152 poles as compared with 465,347 produced last year. Table 1 shows the 1952 output by species and area of origin. North Idaho regained the leadership lost to Montana in 1951. The only change in position of species was the movement of western larch into second place ahead of lodgepole pine. Western redcedar continued as the leader.

Table 1. Number of poles produced in 1952

Species	Northern Rocky Mountain Region				Percent of total
	Montana	North Idaho	Northeast Washington	Total	
	Number of pieces				Percent
Western redcedar	11,792	151,829	54,100	217,721	44.1
Lodgepole pine	104,621	-	-	104,621	21.2
Western larch	56,591	63,323	32,847	152,761	30.9
Douglas-fir	8,981	8,625	1,443	19,049	3.8
Total	181,985	223,777	88,390	494,152	-
Percent	36.8	45.3	17.9	100.0	100.0

1/ The Rocky Mountain Pole and Treating Association sponsored the survey of pole production for 1952. The cooperation of the pole-producing companies in supplying production data is greatly appreciated. All companies were contacted by mail and it is assumed that this report covers all production in this area. Production of any companies that were missed or failed to report would not change total production by more than 1 percent.

2/ Northeast Washington includes Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman Counties.

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Total production was still some 39 percent below the peak year of 1947, with all species except Douglas-fir falling below that peak year. Table 2 shows the change occurring in 1952 from 1951 and 1947.

Table 2. Percent of change in 1952 from 1951 and 1947

Species	1951	1947
Western redcedar	+13.2	- 5.7
Lodgepole pine	-23.4	-70.2
Western larch	+20.9	-31.2
Douglas-fir	+88.3	+194.3
Total	+ 6.2	-39.0

Figure 1 shows the total production and production by species since the beginning of this series of annual surveys in 1946. Even though there has been considerable fluctuation in production, our records do not extend over a long enough period to indicate a definite general trend.

In prior reports and in data presented thus far in this report only poles produced from the forests of the Northern Rocky Mountain Region have been included. In addition to this production, poles are shipped in from the West Coast and Canada and processed by pole companies in this area. The total number of poles received from all geographic sources and processed in this area since 1947 is as follows:

1947	1,173,985	poles
1948	675,055	"
1949	910,603	"
1950	616,267	"
1951	598,313	"
1952	873,838	"

The distribution of poles by length and A.S.A. class was practically the same as 1951. Lengths of 40 feet and less continued to be the most popular, as did A.S.A. classes 4 through 7. Table 3 gives the percentage distribution by A.S.A. class and length.

Figure 1. Pole production by species.

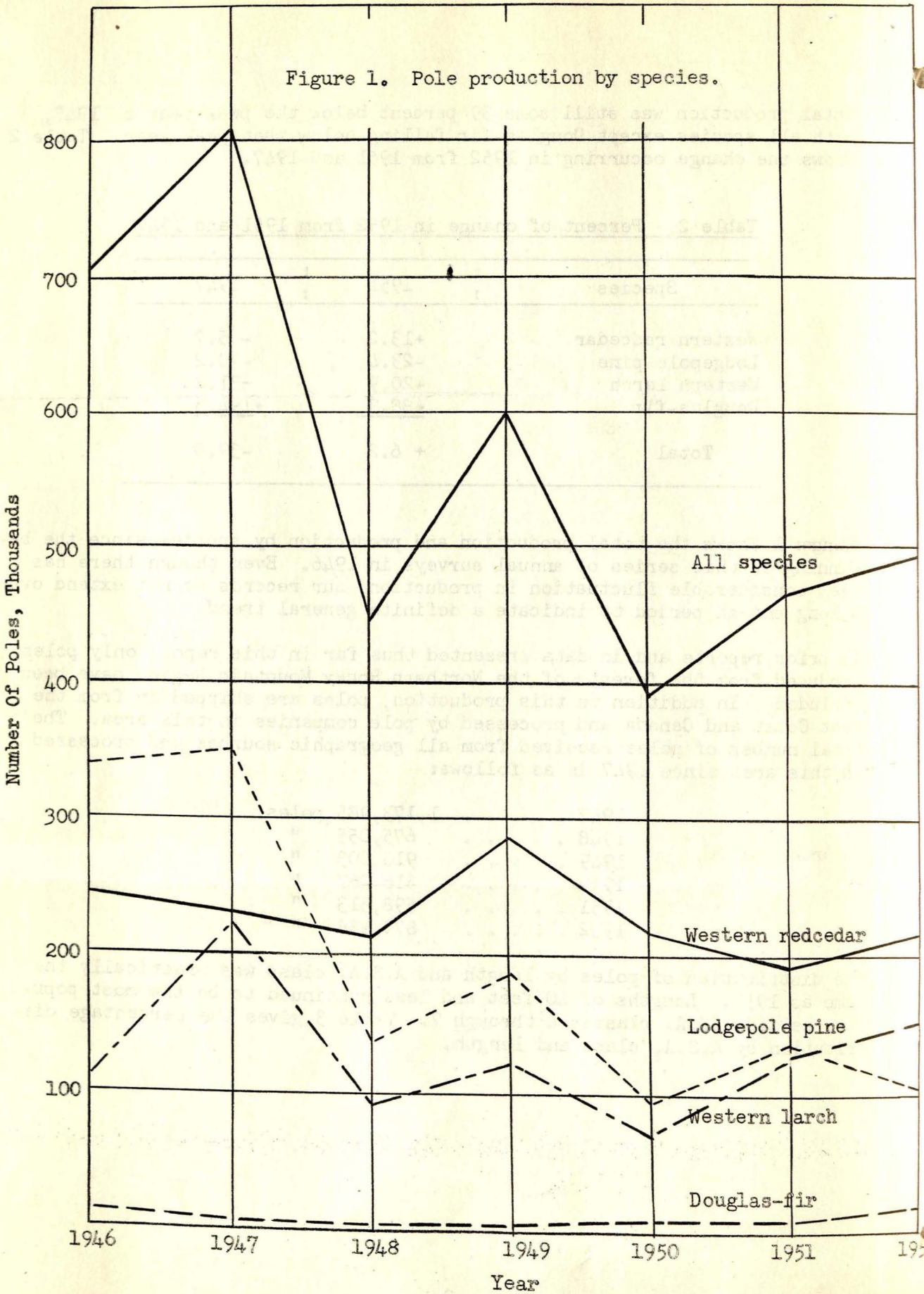

Table 3. Classification of 1952 pole production by A.S.A. class, length, and species

Northern Rocky Mountain Region

Pole length	A.S.A. Class										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	All
Feet	Percent of total										
Western redcedar											
25 & shorter	0.11	0.13	0.32	0.60	1.79	2.29	2.59	1.71	3.32	0.61	13.47
30	0.21	0.28	0.58	1.32	3.11	4.85	5.62	1.81	0.48	0	18.26
35	0.20	0.51	1.57	3.48	8.00	7.50	5.86	0.52	-	0	27.64
40	0.33	0.61	1.80	4.93	5.50	2.32	0.31	0	0	0	15.80
45	0.39	0.77	1.86	3.21	2.03	0.06	0	-	0	0	8.32
50	0.48	0.94	1.76	2.44	0.47	0	0	0	0	0	6.09
55 & longer	2.23	2.81	3.39	1.93	0.06	0	0	0	0	0	10.42
All	3.95	6.05	11.28	17.91	20.96	17.02	14.38	4.04	3.80	0.61	100.00
Lodgepole pine											
25 & shorter	0.05	0.06	0.15	0.38	1.19	2.13	4.68	1.02	7.42	3.48	20.56
30	0.05	0.11	0.25	0.69	2.76	6.25	11.88	0.73	0.59	0.06	23.37
35	0.07	0.19	0.48	2.99	8.98	13.79	11.86	0.07	0.04	0	38.47
40	0.07	0.19	1.39	3.35	4.37	2.63	0.08	0	0	0	12.08
45	0.04	0.19	1.23	1.67	0.84	0.12	0	0	0	0	4.09
50	0.03	0.13	0.53	0.19	0.02	0.02	0	0	0	0	0.92
55 & longer	0.03	0.15	0.23	0.10	-	0	0	0	0	0	0.51
All	0.34	1.02	4.26	9.37	18.16	24.94	28.50	1.82	8.05	3.54	100.00
Western larch											
25 & shorter	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.38	0.55	1.11	1.82	0.29	1.11	0.41	5.76
30	0.24	0.12	0.33	1.34	3.71	5.62	4.44	0.18	0.10	0	16.08
35	0.29	0.56	2.13	4.77	11.49	11.93	5.77	0.05	0	0	36.99
40	0.27	0.48	2.69	6.66	5.96	2.26	0.36	0	0	0	18.68
45	0.27	1.05	3.09	4.66	1.73	0.29	0	0	0	0	11.09
50	0.40	1.27	1.73	1.11	0.08	0	0	0	0	0	4.59
55 & longer	1.39	2.80	2.02	0.58	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	6.81
All	2.88	6.30	12.04	19.50	23.54	21.21	12.39	0.52	1.21	0.41	100.00
Douglas-fir											
25 & shorter	0.01	-	0.07	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.01	-	0.01	0.01	0.23
30	0.09	0.31	0.73	1.61	2.92	3.56	1.89	-	0	0	11.11
35	0.18	0.86	2.47	7.73	12.19	7.88	2.49	0	0	0	33.80
40	0.34	1.27	3.21	8.90	6.56	0.20	-	0	0	0	20.48
45	0.44	1.05	3.16	4.21	0.39	-	0	0	0	0	9.25
50	0.69	1.62	3.97	2.47	0.10	0	0	0	0	0	8.85
55 & longer	2.66	5.28	7.37	0.96	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	16.28
All	4.41	10.39	20.98	25.94	22.20	11.67	4.39	-	0.01	0.01	100.00
All Species											
25 & shorter	0.07	0.08	0.21	0.47	1.24	1.76	2.40	1.11	2.95	0.85	11.14
30	0.19	0.22	0.49	1.28	3.19	5.08	5.73	1.10	0.35	0.01	17.64
35	0.20	0.51	1.66	4.16	9.39	9.39	6.24	0.30	0.01	0	31.86
40	0.28	0.59	2.11	5.56	5.58	2.13	0.26	0	0	0	16.51
45	0.32	0.80	2.21	3.47	1.65	0.12	0	-	0	0	8.57
50	0.43	0.99	1.82	1.85	0.28	-	0	0	0	0	5.37
55 & longer	1.80	2.73	3.06	1.28	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	8.91
All	3.29	5.92	11.56	18.07	21.37	18.48	14.63	2.51	3.31	0.86	100.00

Dash indicates less than 0.01 percent; zero, no production.